

IDAHO LOGGING SAFETY NEWS



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Dirk Kempthorne, Governor
Dave Munroe, Administrator
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ANNUAL FIRST AID CLASSES

It's hard to believe but it is that time of the year again. Once again the annual first aid classes will be starting in March and continuing through April. These classes are a combined effort of the Associated Logging Contractors and Idaho Logging Safety. We will be covering basic first aid and CPR, emergency rescue, and a number of federal requirements including training in hearing conservation, blood-borne pathogens, hazard communication, and tag out-energy control. These classes are for all loggers and their wives and will start promptly at 8 A.M. Coffee and rolls, provided by local equipment dealers, will be available at 7 A.M.



It would be greatly appreciated if the contractors would call the ALC, 1-800-632-8743, with an estimate of the number of people that will be attending the different classes.

DATE		CITY	LOCATION
March 6	Thursday	Potlatch	VFW Hall
March 7	Friday	Deary	Lion's Club
March 10	Monday	Orofino	Armory
March 11	Tuesday	Coeur d'Alene	Armory (5555 E. Seltice Way)
March 12	Wednesday	Bonn timer Ferry	Armory
March 17	Monday	St. Maries (1)	Eagle's Lodge
March 18	Tuesday	New Meadows	Senior Center
March 19	Wednesday	Grangeville	Elk's Lodge
April 7	Monday	Emmett	Senior Center
April 8	Tuesday	St. Maries (2)	Eagle's Lodge
April 15	Tuesday	St. Anthony	City Hall (old Forest Service Bldg.)
April 17	Thursday	Salmon	Stagecoach Inn
April 21	Monday	Pierce	Community Center
April 22	Tuesday	Sandpoint	Eagles Lodge
April 23	Wednesday	Kellogg	Elk's Lodge

Lunch will be provided by the sawmills for those loggers attending the afternoon Pro-Logger class

Women In Timber

These ladies are in the forestry department at **Stimson Lumber Co.** at the Coeur d'Alene mill. They make sure your checks are on time and your scale slips are all there.

Susan Myers



Teri White



Darci Launderville

NEAR MISS



A log truck cab was smashed by a snag when the log loader accidentally bumped the snag while sorting logs. Fortunately, the truck driver was in the clear when the mishap occurred.

If a snag can reach the landing, cut it before all the activity gets started.



By now, most of you have wound up your winter logging season. I guess this will be remembered in most areas as the winter that wasn't really there. I think it was that El Camino thing again. Most areas had very little snow, which certainly made for good working conditions, but this was also accompanied by very little cold weather, which had a tendency to make muddy conditions, soft roads, and down time.

Now, it's that time of the year you have all been waiting for--first aid and all those other meetings that have become a part of spring breakup. I know that these classes seem to get awfully repetitious but this has paid off for many of you. We have had our share of accidents and the job that you did with the first aid and emergency rescue was excellent. We continue to hear from the EMTs and rescue people about what was done before they arrived. In many cases the severity of the injuries was greatly reduced because YOU knew what to do. I don't think we can over emphasize the importance of this training.

We did experience one logging fatality in 2002 which always puts a damper on what was a very good year safety wise. For the most part there were few accidents that ended up being very serious. It sounds like workmen's comp rates will drop a little for the coming year as a result of your efforts. That reduction is very difficult to achieve with the ever-increasing medical costs, so give yourselves a well deserved pat on the back.

That's about all for now. We can't wait to get on the road again. Hope we see you in one of the many classes this spring, if you're not too busy fishing or doing that fun stuff around the house.

If there are some logging contractors that have not attended LEAP training in past years and need this training to qualify for the Pro-logger status, there will be a few classes offered this spring.



Riggins	LEAP-March 12-14
Bonnors Ferry	LEAP-March 26-28
Priest River	LEAP-April 16-18

Coeur d'Alene	LEAP-March 19-21
Sandpoint	LEAP-April 9-11
Orofino	LEAP-April 23-25

You need to call the ALC (1-800-632-8743) to make sure you can get into one of these classes.

Silvicultural Enterprises, Inc.

Owner Norm Tomilson has been logging in the Pierce-Orofino area nearly 30 years for Potlatch Corporation. Norm operates a small cat and usually has those tough strips where only a few trees are taken from thick stands. As Dave (faller) knows, this can be a tedious task to not only safely fall these trees and get them on the ground, but also to fall them so they can be skidded without knocking down the whole hillside. These loggers do an excellent job of accomplishing the task. Much of



this success can be attributed to all members of this crew having nearly 30 years of experience. Not only does the finished product look great, they are also able to do the job safely and still get the necessary production to stay in business. Good job!!

Norm Tomlinson-owner-cat skinner,
Dennis Bartholomew-bucker,
Dave Cramer-faller

On the afternoons of the annual first aid classes, there will be a 3-hour session offered for the pro-logger training. This training is required for the CONTRACTORS and their KEY people every other year, so this years classes will be similar to last years training. The Department of Lands will be giving an update on forest practice rules as well as addressing some of the problems that continue to crop up in different areas. George Miller will be giving a talk on accident investigation ~ *How to do it and Why*. We will be giving an update on what OSHA did last year in terms of citations and job inspections and a short review of how your safety plan can help bring you up to speed to meet the safety training requirements. We will also talk about accident statistics and trends and are hoping to have



somebody come in and talk about common sense approaches to fire and fire equipment on logging caused fires.

This training, as well as the first aid, counts toward your Pro-Logger certification hours. You need to remember that any training you receive during the spring needs to be documented. Some of this training also includes contractor meetings with the sawmills; log quality

meetings that you may attend, and numerous conferences throughout the spring. If you have questions about what counts towards the certification credits, call the ALC at 1-800-632-8743.

The sawmills will be providing lunch and these afternoon classes will be starting by 1 PM at the latest, usually as soon as lunch is done.

As in years past the Department of Lands, Clearwater-Potlatch Timber Protection Association and the Southern Idaho Timber Association will be offering fire safety and suppression refresher training for loggers. This training is required in order to work or operate equipment as a contractor on forest fires. All classes are in the morning and the walk fitness test will be administered following the classroom portion. These half-day classes are worth four continuing education "Pro-Logger" credits. Please contact your local IDL or Association office for details and to pre-register.



3/11~Orofino-Armory
3/12~Pierce-Community Center
3/13~Deary-Lion's Club
3/14~Donnelly-Fire Station;
3/14~Coeur d'Alene-IDL staff office
3/19~St. Maries-Eagles Hall; 3/20~Grangeville-Elks Club; 3/25~Kellog-Elks Club; 3/25~Bonners Ferry-Fairgrounds; 4/23~Sandpoint-TBA



McLeish Logging line skidding crew L. to R. Dennis McLeish, Ben Lindgren, Mike Lindgren, Steve McLeish, Gene Mellott, & Tarz McLeish

McLeish Logging Inc.

Hails from Bonners Ferry but the last two or three times that I've been on their job they have been working in the Priest Lake area. Last summer I was up on their job and the horse flies were as big as small airplanes, and this winter they had three times as much snow as anyone else in north Idaho. It seems like maybe they are blessed, or maybe not!

Dennis and his two boys run the outfit and work very hard in doing so. Dennis runs the sidewinder line machine and Steve does the bulk of the hooking and setup chores. Tarz runs the processor, which is a dangle head on a Timco under carriage. They have a D 5 grapple cat that skids tree lengths away from the chute of the sidewinder.

The company hires out all the loading and hauling.

Lawson Logging Deary Idaho

By Cliff Osborne

Roy Lawson logging has so much rigging that it would be impossible to get all the crew in this newsletter. He has four mechanized sides and several cat crews working. He also runs up to eight or so road building backhoes.



T.J. Hadler-hooker

I chose to highlight the line crew because it is unique. Jewel Manufacturing has put together hydraulic drums and a tower on a Timco feller buncher. The machine can go about anywhere and has four way leveling capability. Lawson Logging uses the machine to skid some of his forwarder strips up the ridges to avoid damage to the wet draws. They also skid regular line strips, which the crew was currently logging for Potlatch Corporation.

**GOOD, SAFE
OPERATION!!**



Doug Fitzmorris-operator



Robby Johnson-hooker

NEAR MISS

Here is a story I heard recently. It obviously happened years ago since loggers these days don't take foolish chances like a few did in the past.

A skidder operator came walking off the hill reporting to the mechanic that the brakes on his skidder would not work. The mechanic, thinking it would be a whole lot easier to work on the skidder down on the road, decided to bring the brakeless machine down the hill. He figured if he kept the blade close to the ground he could lower it every so often to slow his progress. With safety high on his list, the mechanic reached down and connected his seat belt.

Turning the skidder around and getting it pointed down the hill, the mechanic stalled the engine on the machine. With no brakes to hold the skidder and no motor to lower the blade, gravity took over and away the mechanic went. Deciding he was in a little bit of trouble the fellow decided to jump out of the machine. When he reached down to unbuckle his seat belt he couldn't find the latch (he later discovered he had buckled the belt with the latch toward his belly). The mechanic successfully got the skidder down to the road, and in fact reported that he wasn't even sure it touched the road on his way by because of the incredible speed he was traveling.

The good news was the mechanic was not injured, however, he was unable to work on the skidder for several days because of the way his entire body kept shaking.



NEAR MISS / DIRECT HIT

A timber faller was working in some large cedar when this mishap occurred. The logger put his undercut in the 16-foot diameter tree and noticed it was really thin shelled (only about a foot of meat). The inside of the tree had been burned out years ago by fire but was still alive. The faller tried to get around the backside to start his back cut but couldn't because of the bank the tree was growing on. He figured he would have to put staging or spring boards up to saw the tree, but he didn't have any of that stuff and didn't know how to use it anyway. Since there was an open cat face on one side of the butt of the tree he decided to saw that stud down from the inside.

The logger got inside and started to saw around the backside. The tree had good lean so he knew he wouldn't have to wedge. Things were going really well. The tree started to fall. He hadn't really

thought about an escape route but figured that when it started to get daylight he'd probably jump out through the cat face on the high side. Well, then it happened. Something hit him on his neck knocking him flat. When he came to, he was lying beside this big furry thing. It turned out that the old bear was sleeping the winter off on a ledge up in that tree and when it started falling it dislodged him.

As you can tell from this furry tale, strange things do happen in this logging business.



Robert Mentor and ***Doyle Lawrence***

are a couple of long time timber fallers that can get a lot of wood on the ground in a hurry. Even though these two have safe work habits, I know they can't wait to attend this springs first aid class. Doyle says when you ride back and forth to work with Robert, you never know when some medical knowledge might come in handy!

Seriously, these loggers make the effort to work safe and that is appreciated.

*Ryan Renfro, Marsi Woody
&
Eric Milstead*

Horseshoe Bend lumberjack Ryan Renfro, Renfro Logging, takes time out of his busy day to explain their logging system to Marsi and Eric. Even though Marsi and Eric's jobs are handling budgets for the state, I think they understood and appreciated the efforts of this company to harvest timber with a very low impact to the ground and next generation of trees, all the while doing it safely.



I know Marsi and Eric enjoy what they do for a living but I got the feeling they wouldn't mind getting out of their offices and going to the woods every once in awhile. If they played their cards right I bet there are some logging outfits that would even let them set chokers or bump knots all day!

ACCIDENT

The following accident occurred this winter and had numerous twists to it, both good and bad, which could probably be described as "THE SAGA CONTINUES!!"

A timber faller was injured by a cedar snag while fueling his saw on a forest service timber sale. This was a selective cut sale that years earlier had numerous trees "ringed" by saws to help thin the stand. The fir that had been "ringed" were obviously dead and were being fell as the sawyer worked his way through the strip. The cedar that had been "ringed" was

not so obvious. The roots were completely rotted out but the trees themselves still had green limbs (that will happen with cedar). While investigating the accident the woods boss and the forest service discovered numerous other trees in the area in the same condition. The sawyers refused to go back into the strip and after several "snags" fell while the investigation was going on, the area was removed from the timber sale.

There was some good news that accompanied this "unplanned" accident. The logging outfit had done their homework ahead of time should an accident occur. With the State Comm. frequency programmed on their radios and a landing site identified with a GPS reading, the State Communication Center was notified. As it turned out, the helicopter was out of service in Orofino, Medstar was fogged in

at Spokane, but the helicopter was available in Missoula. Within 29 minutes of the call, the helicopter was hovering over the logging job. The faller was taken to the hospital and fortunately released that evening to go back to work.

There was another twist to this story. Although the sawyer was in considerable pain, he did work the next day. By afternoon, the pain had become unbearable and so he was taken back to a different hospital for further examination. It was then discovered that he had a partially dislocated shoulder and some broken ribs. He did get back to work this winter but only after a few weeks of delay. Sometimes you can't win for losing!

I wonder if this whole story could have been eliminated if the loggers had done the thinning on this strip from the get go some thirty years ago?



A sawyer received only minor injuries when he was thrown from the log he was limbing. He had just fell a large bushy hemlock tree and was limbing it when a white pine snag came down a few feet behind him causing the log he was walking on to catapult him in the air nearly 20 feet. He came down on some strip sawed logs and brush, bruising him pretty good, but not breaking any bones.

Evidently, the tree he had just fell created enough suction to pull the snag over. He had been falling the snags as he worked his way through the strip to keep this from happening but apparently overlooked one. Lucky for him, this could very well have been the one that killed him!

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*It is mailed to all logging companies in Idaho. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Call (208) 334-3950 or write:
Idaho Logging Safety News, Logging Safety Bureau,
PO Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0048.*

David Kludt
Idaho Logging Safety
HC11 Box 82
Kamiah, ID 83536

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